



## Washington State FSA - 2021 June Newsletter - June 1, 2021

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## Report Damage or Loss of NAP Covered Crops Immediately

Weather can be unpredictable and harmful to crops. If weather events cause damage to or loss of your NAP covered crops, remember that you must report this to your local FSA county office timely in order to be eligible for a NAP benefit.

NAP notices of loss can be initiated by phone, email, or fax, but must be submitted in writing, to your local FSA county office for weather related events or adverse natural occurrences that cause damage to or loss of the NAP covered crop. To report crop damage or loss you must complete, sign, and file the loss portion of form CCC-576 with your FSA office by the earlier of either of the following:

- **15 calendar days** after the disaster occurrence or date of loss or damage to the crop or commodity first becomes apparent or
- **15 calendar days** after the normal harvest date.

Please note, producers of hand-harvested crops and certain perishable crops must notify FSA **within 72 hours** of when a loss becomes apparent.

While some FSA county offices have limited access to the public, offices will take initial NAP notice of loss notifications via phone, email, or fax. Offices will assist producers in completing the official CCC-576 Notice of Loss Form as best as possible, sending the form to producers via email, fax, or mail for final review and signature. The completed and

signed CCC-576 should then be returned to the county office as soon as possible via email, fax, or mail.

As the 2021 crop year progresses, it is imperative that a notice of loss is filed (for all affected NAP covered crops) within the timeframe noted above for each weather-related event or adverse natural occurrence. This will ensure FSA is notified that your NAP covered crop or crops have been damaged or lost. If the loss event is approved, remember to provide your crop production to your local FSA county office within 60 days after harvest or request an appraisal within 60 days of the normal harvest date so that the payment portion of form CCC-576 can be filed timely.

When a covered crop is lost or damage is significant, replanting is required if feasible and the final planting date has not passed. When you determine that the crop will be destroyed, abandoned, or not taken to harvest as intended, you must report this to your local FSA office so a field visit can be conducted by a certified loss adjuster. Once the crop appraisal has been completed, the loss adjuster will release the field and you can destroy the covered crop acres and replant to a different crop or harvest the acres for a different use.

**Remember, failure to timely notify your FSA county office of NAP covered crop damage or loss will result in denial of NAP payment benefits.** Destroying NAP covered crop acres or harvesting for a different use without a loss adjuster appraisal will result in those acres being determined ineligible for NAP payment benefits.

If you have any questions about NAP policy requirements, contact your local [county FSA office](#) for more information.

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## Change Policy for Filing a NAP Notice of Loss on Grazed Forage

For the 2021 and subsequent crop years, NAP forage producers with the intended use of grazing who elect to use independent assessments or other approved alternative loss percentage methods to establish their loss are no longer required to file a CCC-576 Notice of Loss with FSA. However, a CCC-576 Application for Payment form must be submitted to FSA no later than 60 calendar days after the coverage period ends.

Producers that elect to have the grazing loss determined using similar mechanically harvested units still must timely file a CCC-576 Notice of Loss within the earlier of 15 days of the disaster event or damage to the crop first becomes apparent or within 15 days of harvest.

If you have any questions about NAP policy requirements, contact your local [county FSA office](#) for more information.

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## 2021 Wool Triggers Loan Deficiency Payments

Wool producers may be eligible for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) through the Farm Service Agency. LDPs are direct payments made in lieu of a marketing assistance loan

when the Commodity Credit Corporation determined value, based on the current local price, is below the applicable loan rate. For wool, the local prices and loan rates are set at a national level. The payment is the difference between the price and loan rate times the eligible quantity. Wool LDP rates are updated on a weekly basis and can be found online [here](#). Use the Weekly Commodity Rates icon to open the dropdown which includes the “Wool and Mohair LDP Rates” spreadsheet.

Unsold wool shorn during the 2021 calendar year may be eligible for a 2021 LDP. For a commodity to be eligible for an LDP, the producer must have beneficial interest in the commodity, defined as having title, possession, and control of the commodity, and responsible for loss of or damage to the commodity. All related application forms must be completed at the local FSA office prior to loss of beneficial interest. Additional eligibility requirements must be met before an LDP payment can be paid. This includes a 2021 FSA-578 acreage report for all crop acres, a CCC-941 Adjusted Gross Income Certification, a CCC-902 Farm Operating Plan, an AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Certification, and a direct deposit form or waiver.

In order to request an LDP for wool, producers must complete a CCC-633 EZ Loan Deficiency Payment Agreement and Request form. Page 1 is the agreement which signifies an intent to request an LDP and must be completed before a producer loses beneficial interest of the eligible commodity. Page 4 is the wool request for LDP benefits and must be submitted after page 1 is completed. Once signed and approved, page 4 cannot be cancelled and payments cannot be deferred. Payments are processed after page 4 has been submitted and approved.

For more information on LDPs, visit <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/price-support/Index> or visit [your local FSA office](#).

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## **Livestock Forage Program: Signup and Availability**

As drought conditions continue to persist throughout much of our state, eligibility for one month’s forage payment under the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) has been announced for Grant and Kittitas counties. Drought conditions have turned more severe within several other counties in our state and has resulted in eligibility for 3 months of forage payments within the following counties due to D3 drought conditions: Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Klickitat, Walla Walla, Whitman, and Yakima.

LFP provides financial assistance to eligible livestock producers when producers suffer grazing losses due to drought conditions within the grazing period. These drought conditions must reach an intensity level of D2 for 8 consecutive weeks, or a D3 or D4 for any given length of time. Payments are based upon intensity levels and the duration at which the drought remains at that intensity level.

Eligible livestock owners or contract growers must have risk in the livestock, and also provide the eligible grazing land physically located within an eligible county. This includes land that is owned or leased with the intent of grazing. All forage ground must be accounted for on the applicant’s acreage report (FSA-578) and must be filed by the

reporting deadline of July 15. Late filed acreage reports will be subject to late file fees and provisions.

All livestock producers within eligible counties wishing to file an application should contact their local FSA office to request an application. Producers must be prepared to provide documentation to support their LFP application. This includes inventory records for livestock, leases, grower contracts, etc.

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## **Environmental Review Required Before Project Implementation**

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Federal agencies to consider all potential environmental impacts for federally-funded projects before a project is approved.

For all FSA programs, an environmental review must be completed before actions, such as site preparation or ground disturbance are approved. These programs include, but are not limited to, the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), Tree Assistance Program (TAP), Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program and farm loans.

If project implementation begins before FSA has completed an environmental review, this will result in a denial of the request. There are exceptions regarding the Stafford Act and emergencies. It is important to wait until you receive written approval of your project proposal before starting any actions, including, but not limited to, vegetation clearing, site preparation or ground disturbance.

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## **Annual Acreage Reporting Deadline Approaching**

Producers are reminded that all programs administered by the Farm Service Agency have a component which requires producers to annually report their planted acreages and similar land uses. July 15, 2021 is our States final reporting date and growers of spring planted crops and perennial forage crops are strongly encouraged to contact their local county offices to arrange an appointment to report your acreage before this deadline. Missing the deadline makes producers ineligible for certain benefits.

Yes, you can regain your eligibility by filing a late filed acreage report, but this action comes with a penalty. Producers filing late must make a request for the County Committee to accept the late filed acreages and pay the costs for an FSA representative to visit your farm and verify your reported acreages. This is a per farm fee and depending on the size of your farm operation could be on the expensive side.

Producers with CRP are also required to certify their contract acreages before July 15<sup>th</sup> each calendar year. County Offices work hard to ensure contract acreages are certified, but it is your responsibility to ensure program compliance, and as such, if you have made changes to your CRP contracts, you may find it beneficial to contact the County Office to ensure your farm's compliance.

Growers of perennial fruit, nut, and berry crops along with any fall seeded crops, although your deadline to report has past, you may file a late filed acreage report for the 2021 growing season. This comes with a farm fee unless you can provide evidence that you timely filed your acreages with the Risk Management Agency through your crop insurance agent. In these situations, your late filed report can be considered timely filed and the fees waived.

There are several options including virtual meeting appointments that can be utilized to fulfil the acreage reporting requirements. Working with your County Office on which option is best for you begins with a phone call to request an appointment.

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## Farm Service Agency Accepting Nominations for County Committees June 15 through August 2

The nomination period for USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees runs June 15 through August 2, 2021, and elections will take place starting in November.

County committees are unique to FSA and serve as a direct link between agricultural communities across the country and USDA. For more information on FSA county committees, visit [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections).

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## Important Dates and Deadlines

**Now – July 1, 2021** – Primary Nesting Season for CRP. Activities on established CRP stands are prohibited April 1 through July 1 unless specifically authorized by FSA on a contract by contract basis. This restriction does not apply to contracts where the cover is being established at this time.

**June 1, 2021** – Final date to request a MAL for 2020 corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, rice, safflower seed, chickpeas, soybeans, and sunflower seeds.

**June 15, 2021** – Nominations open for 2021 FSA County Committee Elections.

**July 5, 2021** – Monday observance of Independence Day. USDA service centers will be closed.

**July 15, 2021** – Final acreage reporting date for perennial forage, CRP, and spring-seeded crops.

**July 15, 2021** – Deadline to report actual harvested production of 2020 NAP covered grass seeds, forages, and annually planted spring crops for actual production history (APH) purposes.

**July 15, 2021** – Final date to report 2020 production for ARC-IC.

**August 1, 2021** – County Committee election nominations due.

**August 31, 2021** – Deadline to obtain 2022 crop year NAP coverage for cabbage (for seed or fresh); canola; carrots (for seed); cauliflower (for seed or fresh); onions (for seed,

fresh, or processing); rapeseed; rutabaga (for seed or fresh); turnips (for seed or fresh); and any other fall planted crops not mentioned in other closing dates (full list of Washington State NAP dates posted [here](#)).

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